Message Text

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R 071730Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5960 INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA AMCONSUL OPORTO

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 4220

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 TAGS: PEPR PGOV PO

SUBJ: EANES, SEPARATISTS, AND THE US CONGRESS

REF: (A) LISBON 3064 (NOTAL) (B) LISBON 1826 (NOTAL)

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 6, DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT LUIS MARTINS RAISED PRESS REPORTS THAT IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, PRESIDENT EANES HAD "ACCUSED" SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF SUPPORTING SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS IN THE AZORES AND DR. BRZEZINSKI'S REQUEST THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS BE SUBSTANTIATED.

2. ACCORDING TO MARTINS, EANES HAD NOT MEANT TO SOUND ACCUSATORY AND HAD NO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OR CONGRESSMEN IN MIND. IN LIGHT OF THE LARGE AZOREAN/PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY IN THE US AND THEIR TRADITIONAL CONSERVATISM, PRESIDENT EANES, MARTINS EMPHASIZED, SIMPLY WANTED TO "WARN" PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE AND THE GOP REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS COULD FIND SUPPORT IN THE US. MARTINS ADDED QUICKLY THAT EANES UNDERSTANDS COMPLETELY THAT THE USG WOULD NOT SUPPORT OR CONDONE SUCH ACTIVITIES.

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3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS TO GOP REMAINS PREDICTABLY AND PERHAPS OVERLY SENSITIVE TO RUMORS OR HINTS OF UNOFFICIAL US SUPPORT TO THE SEPARATISTS. MARTINS, PROBABLY AT EANES'S REQUEST, WANTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. TOBIN S/S-O.

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